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ABSTRACT

Both a "how-to" book and the story of a "year in the life" with a teacher and her at-risk students, this book is a research chronicle that offers proven methods and inspiration for teachers of the most obdurate middle and secondary school students. The book presents case studies, photographs, quotes from educators, surveys, activities, and step-by-step strategies for teaching reading and writing. Chapters in the book are: (1) The View in the Rearview Mirror; (2) New Understanding--Same Challenges; (3) Creating a Literate Environment; (4) Meeting the Students Where They Are; (5) Voices Within and Without; (6) The World Is Our Textbook; (7) Supporting Real Choices; (8) Going around the Edges; (9) "It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times..."; (10) "That One Wonder of a Child..."; and (11) Living a Meaningful Life. Appendixes present the research methodology, survey instruments, samples of assessment/evaluation prompts, and a student-generated reading interview survey. Contains 121 references, 110 literary references, and 17 resource references. (RS)

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